

Slip into a hot new 'T' or tank top

THE REAL DEAL



CARI WALDMAN

Forgot the weather report. Now that Memorial Day is behind us, it's time to review your summer wardrobe.

And this season, if there's one place to start, it's in your drawers.

"The T-shirt is the most important part of a woman's wardrobe. It's like

peaches with cream, or cookies with milk," says Frank Caruso, of Caruso. "The ultimate compliment to your look, whatever your age."

"Spring fashion is sophisticated, racy, feminine and sporty all at the same time. So it was only natural for designers to compliment the mix and put a little extra sizzle into their cotton collections."

And after hitting the dressing rooms, it's safe to say that this season's tanks and tees are the perfect answer for a fun and undeniably polished look.

Lyra, shine, embellishments, bright colors and built-in bras, are all big news in the T-shirt world. So ditch last year's basic gray long sleeve tee and update your stash with some hot ones. Cap sleeves, three-quarter sleeves or no sleeves at all, they are all hot picks.

Notable specialty shops lines to watch for include Petit Bateau, Michael Stars, Juicy Couture and Three Dots, with great fitting styles including the cap sleeve baseball tee and the Michael Stars shiny tee in orange or tie dye.

Black and white are musts, but if you have to choose just one, go for crimson, peacock blue or tangerine for a change.

For those who are willing to show some skin, don't miss out on J.Crew's built-up tanks made of Lyra and cotton. They completely hold in the breasts, even without a bra — no exaggeration. (I've had two kids!)

City Lights version fits like a glove, too.

Derek Andrew, the designer who originally created the trendy sporty line Bum Equipment, is back in the cotton game.

His two new lines 'Clothes' and 'Red Line', which can be spotted at It's the Ritz, Caruso, Caruso and Frankie and Debbie's in downtown Birmingham, takes the basic tee and omph's it up with just the perfected amount of style.

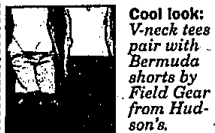
His deep V-neck T is adorned with a little bit of lace and his sexy short sleeve scoop neck has a touch of satin treatment. Each season his color palette change, but for now purple and red reign in his collections. And as a bonus, his T's fit a little fuller than other comparable cotton lines.

And for many, that's good news. After all, who doesn't want their new shirt to fit like a — "T!"

Cari Waldman of West Bloomfield is a free lance writer and stylist. Please email your style and shopping questions to Cari at ORRealDeal@aol.com.



Built-up tank: Sexy and undeniably fun, it's available at Target, Frankie and Debbie's and J. Crew.



Cool look: V-neck tees pair with Bermuda shorts by Field Gear from Hudson's.



Sparkle: Paillettes add gold shimmer to a black dress.



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSIE ZOLNATNY

Traditional meets trendy: Chanel updates a classic tweed taupe and grey suit with slits, showing off a pleated undershirt.

Chanel attitude

Mixing modern and traditional styling for fall

BY SHARON DARGAV
STAFF WRITER

You expect to see textured tweeds, lady-like two-piece suits and coat dresses at a Chanel fashion show.

But ski wear? "The important point is that all of the fabric is technically correct for skiing. It's very light," says Tara Festa, Chanel spokeswoman.

"There's not a lot of ski wear in the collection, but these are basic trends. There's a marabou coat and these great quilted ski pieces. Quilting is a trend this year."

Before you run for ski poles and boots, consider the rest of Chanel's fall line, which mixes contemporary styling — leather piping, geometric pattern and quilting — with traditional suits and dresses.

"It's a return to classics but with a modern twist," says Cheryl Hall, special events manager for Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection, Troy.

"It looks like Chanel. It's a modern shape. It has a modern twist."

Chanel showed a little of everything, including ski wear, suits and relaxed sweater and skirt pairings, at a recent benefit for The HAVEN, held at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection.

The fashion show of ready-to-wear apparel

raised money for programs at the shelter, which offers temporary housing for abused women and their children, counseling and violence prevention programs.

Festa identified several trends in the fall collection:

"There's a vintage trend which is bringing us back to the novelty tweeds that the house is known for. And then you have Chanel attitude, which is a lot of graffiti print, the logo tag with print, silk dresses.

"Denim is used continuously throughout the season. It's an over-dyed denim. We pair it with leather."

Leather also appears as piping and as trim on suit coats, in A-line skirts and on jackets.

Knit tops pair with sheer and quilted skirts for a look that Festa calls "casual, more relaxed."

Look for plum, navy, gold gray and bordeaux colors.

"There is gray, but it's gray with texture and character. There's also a lot of color," Hall noted.

"You'll see lots of texture in the fabric, such as the tweeds that Chanel is famous for. There's more richness to the texture."

Silver, white and gray color the new ski gear line. Detachable jacket sleeves allow skiers to go from mountain to lodge without changing clothes



Quilted look: Zip sweater and opaque hose sport geometric patterns in plum over a grey skirt. (left) Chanel's fall collection shows quilted accents on shirts, jackets and sweaters. The top (right) carries the motif in a pairing with grey slacks.



Your ugly bridesmaid dress could win a prize

Maybe it's lime green polyester with a lace overlay.

Or tropical print chiffon over pineapple yellow silk.

Whatever the nightmare fabric, color and styling, you probably wore one at least once if you've ever been a wedding attendant.

We're talking ugly bridesmaids dresses here, the kind you stash in the attic or give to the next-door neighbor kid for dress-up play.

It looks disastrous, but may be worth

a free dinner at Andiamos Italian Restaurant in downtown Rochester.

Borders Books, Music, Video & a Cafe in Rochester Hills, will award a gift certificate to the owner of the ugliest dress during its celebration of Martha Stewart's newest book, Best of Martha Stewart Living Weddings, from 1-4 p.m., Saturday.

Judges will pick the ugliest dress at 3 p.m.

Other events include:

■ Funniest wedding story contest —

Entries are due by 11 a.m., June 30.

Submit your funniest wedding story in three pages or less and include a name, address and telephone number. The winner will get a \$50 gift certificate and the runner-up will take home a \$20 gift certificate.

■ Hand-painted furniture — Lisa Knoppe-Read will demonstrate painting on old and abandoned furniture at 1 p.m. The store also will auction one of her chairs and donate the proceeds to the Oakland Literacy Council.

■ Scrapbooks and Stationery — The staff of Paradise Craft in Romeo will show the basics for making a scrapbook or for creating personal stationery at 2 p.m.

■ Silk flowers — Learn flower arranging techniques in a workshop at 3 p.m.

The store requires registration for the scrapbook and silk flower workshops. Call 248-652-0558.

It's located on Rochester Road just south of Avon in Rochester Hills.

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: *Malls & Mainstreets*, c/o *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

LUSCIOUS LALIQUE
Antique perfume bottles and other pieces from the private collection of Nicholas Dawes, an expert and collector of Rene Lalique works, are on display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily through June 14 at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection, Troy. (248) 643-3300.

FLY FISHIN'
Reel in some expert advice on tying the Michigan Mayfly for brown trout, as well as other fly-fishing information at Flymart Flyshops' open house from 3-7 p.m. The event includes a casting demonstration into a 60-foot pond at the store, located at 1002 North Main in Royal Oak.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

FOCUS ON FASHION
Check out Tahari, Anne Klein and Halston fall fashions at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Special representatives will be on hand to assist shoppers with Tahari and Anne Klein designs, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Informal modeling will spotlight Halston fashions from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (248) 643-9090 for Tahari and (248) 614-3339 for Anne Klein and Halston.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

VISITING JEWELER

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Stoven Lagos, an international fine jewelry designer and founder of LAGOS designs, will visit with customers from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Neiman Marcus, in the Somerset Collection, Troy. Lagos will donate five percent of proceeds from the sale of his jewelry, during his visit, to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. (248) 643-3300.

COUTURE OPEN HOUSE
Designer Diana Jellinek will open her studio doors for an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veroux Couture, 360 E. Maple, Studio N, between Livonia and Rochester Road in Troy. The event includes refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Jellinek's designs range from the staff uniforms at Pure, a downtown Detroit nightclub to the ball gowns worn at local charity events. (248) 686-8833 for reservations.

MAX MARA
Somerset Collection South's newest store, Max Mara, will show its fall Italian-made sportswear and coats at a trunk show from 2-6 p.m. in the store.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

STORIES AT WONDERLAND
The Livonia Public Library and Wonderland Mall sponsor a summer reading program at 11:30 a.m., in the shopping center's entertainment court. Today's reading selection: *Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs*. The mall is located at 29859 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

MEMORABILIA SHOW
Shoppers can meet former Tiger baseball player Bill Freehan and buy his autograph for \$6 from 6-8 p.m. at Livonia Mall. His appearance kicks off Hall of Fame weekend at the mall. Gordie Howe, former Red Wing, will sign his book, *All Howe*, on June 10. The books cost \$35 each. Proceeds go to the Livonia school district. Livonia Mall is located at 29514 Seven Mile.

MAKE UP ARTIST VISITS
Triah McEvey, make up artist, will visit the cosmetics department from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jacobson's Livonia. 734-591-7898.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

MEDIAVAL FESTIVAL
Step back in time at Olde World Canterbury Village in Lake Orion. The shopping center's medieval festival, which runs through Sunday, June 11, will include costumed actors, demonstrations, vendors and music. (248) 391-6700.

NEW EYEWEAR
Stop in and see the entire line of Kenneth Cole Eyewear at D.O.C. Eyewear, 6476 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. The trunk show, which includes sunglasses and the signature line, runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (248) 851-8300.